



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Update**  
**Deer Park, Texas**  
**April 19, 2019 0000 – April 19, 2019 1159**

**Incident Management Objectives:**

**Objective 1:** Ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel.

**Objective 2:** Establish an incident management structure and processes employing the Incident Command System to enable effective overall management of the event with deployment of resources (staff and equipment) in a rapid, focused and well-coordinated manner.

**Objective 3:** Encourage a collaborative federalism approach, where Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems.

**Objective 4:** Take actions to assess the on-site and off-site impacts during the emergency response phase of this incident. Provide this information to state and local authorities to assist them in their decision to protect the local citizens.

**Objective 5:** Conduct activities to prevent off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 6:** Respond to, mitigate and recovery off-site releases from the ITC Tank Farm.

**Objective 7:** Maintain open communication with Regional management

**Incident Overview:**

On March 17, 2019, an above ground storage tank containing Naphtha, caught fire at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC), LLC facility in Deer Park Texas. The ITC facility consists of 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil. Eleven of the 15 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks on site were involved in the fire, resulting in the release of contaminants into the atmosphere, as well discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Firefighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products were released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from firefighting efforts. Various firefighting organizations assisted in putting out the fire utilizing a variety of firefighting foams.

A partial breach of the tank farm containment wall on the northeast side near Tank 80-7 occurred at approximately 12:00 pm on March 22, 2019, to the ditched area and into Tucker Bayou. Additional boom was placed along the ditch leading to Tucker Bayou and Buffalo Bayou (Houston Ship Channel). The Responsible Party's contractor has rebuilt the containment wall using clay material.

At approximately 3:40 pm on March 22, 2019, three tanks reignited. The fire spread from the containment area through the breached containment wall into the ditch along Tidal Road. Foam was applied to the tanks and the ditch to extinguish the fire.

As a result of the fire, nine of the fifteen oil tanks had been burned and collapsed. One of the tanks had been burned and damaged, but not completely collapsed. Two tanks had become overheated and smoked but were not significantly damaged. Four of the tanks had smoked but did not burn.

During and after the fire and the breach of the secondary containment, several readings of benzene above 1.0 parts per million (ppm) were detected (highest was 16.5 near National Tank Services) by the various entities conducting air monitoring through the afternoon and night. These readings were located along the ship channel.

A vessel decontamination plan was approved on March 27, 2019. The plan established procedures for decontamination of large and small vessels. Also, the plan describes how the decontamination team will utilize resources that include barge boats equipped with a hot water pressure washer, support boats for assessment team members, containment boom and absorbent sweep, rags, absorbent pads, cleaning agents, personal protective equipment (PPE), boat operators, and technicians.

On March 31, 2019, EPA and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) posted the Story Map Resource Interactive tool for the ITC incident. The Story Map provides easy access for ITC fire data.

#### **Executive Overview:**

- On April 19, 2019, EPA demobilized its ASPECT air monitoring aircraft to return its hanger in Addison, TX. ASPECT has not measured elevated levels of chemicals from ITC during recent overflights. We continue to conduct air monitoring with the TAGA bus and air monitoring teams around the ITC facility and in the communities.
- In preparation to discharge treated incident-related wastewater from Tank 80-34, ITC is securing laboratories to analyze their effluent samples as required in the April 17, 2019 EPA authorization.
- On Saturday, April 20, 2019, ITC plans to pause water operations and tank cleaning operations at 12:00 pm. On Sunday, April 21, 2019, ITC plans to have reduced operations. Vacuum truck operations at ditches and air monitoring will continue.
- **The next ITC Fire Update will be issued on Monday, April 22, 2019.**

#### **Land Operations:**

- On April 19, 2019, ITC conducted operations at the tank farm:

<b>Tank Status</b>	<b>Tank No.</b>
Complete & Clean – No further action (NFA) needed	80-1, 80-4, 80-9, 80-11, 80-12, 80-13
Complete – NFA possible until demo	80-2, 80-3, 80-5, 80-6, 80-7, 80-15
Cleaning and Degassing	80-8, 80-10, 80-14

#### **Water Operations:**

- On April 19, 2019, ITC continued flushing of Tucker Bayou.

- EPA conducted surface water sampling on April 19, 2019 at 8 sample locations. The surface water samples were collected along Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River and will be analyzed for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), chemical oxygen demand (COD), and oil & grease. The results from the sampling event were compared to the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Standards (WQS), or to TCEQ Texas Risk Reduction Program surface water protective concentration levels (PCLs), if a WQS was not available for a chemical. No exceedances have been observed since April 2, 2019.
- On April 19, 2019, the USCG evaluated the docks at San Jacinto Port. A water/oil interface probe was used, and no oil was detected by the probe, but visual sheen was noticed. Absorbent pads were placed to attempt to address the sheen in these areas. Periodic evaluation with interface probe will continue to determine if re-accumulation of material will occur.
- On April 19, 2019, ITC continued material recovery with vacuum trucks behind and within the caisson (water tight retaining structures) at Bostco Docks.
- The Houston Ship Channel is open for normal operations. The USCG continues to conduct roving inspections of vessels at docks between Patricks Bayou and the mouth of Carpenters Bayou for decontamination needs during daylight hours.
- The USCG Captain of the Port continues the controlled open for the Old River. Inbound traffic is only allowed during the daytime and decontamination operations for vessels continue.
- As of April 19, 2019:
  - 160,840 feet of boom deployed
  - 144,244 bbl of product/water recovered from water operations
  - 240,425 bbl of product/water recovered from tank farm

Total Vessels as of April 19, 2019				
Work Boats	Barges	Small Capacity Skimming Vessels	Skimmers	Total Vessels
95	101	23	70	<b>289</b>

#### **Community Air Monitoring:**

- Several entities including TCEQ, EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring on April 19, 2019, from 00:00 to 23:59 at 73 locations in the surrounding communities. Results were reported above the detection limit at three locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and one location for benzene. EPA will continue to conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) if VOCs or benzene continue to be detected.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft found no exceedances of the Texas comparison values on April 19, 2019. ASPECT has conducted a screening level assessment to evaluate the unreported or undetected releases of hazardous materials or contaminants at the Intercontinental Terminal Company (ITC) in Deer Park, Texas. The screening level results from ASPECT were compared to the ASPECT list of Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs). No chemicals were detected by the ASPECT. Following this flight, the ASPECT aircraft demobilized and is not expected to fly again for this incident.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on April 19, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the TCEQ short-term AMCVs and found exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for benzene at the ITC facility. These results have been shared with unified command and local officials.

**Coordination with State Agencies:**

On March 17, 2019, in response to a tank fire at the ITC, federal, state and local agencies joined ITC in a Unified Command. Multiple agencies including the United States Coast Guard, the TCEQ, and Harris County Pollution Control Services supported the response effort.

**EPA Resources:**

Personnel	EPA R6 Dallas	ITC Deer Park	Total
EPA Region 6	5	5	10
EPA Non-Region 6	0	2	2
START	1	16	17
Other Contractors	0	8	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>

## Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations

